

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01      PARAMA 00127 171559Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----171601 080062 /41  
R 171301Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3158

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 0127

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EINV, NS  
SUBJ: REYNOLDS OVERSEAS POLITICAL PAYMENTS

REF: PARAMARIBO 0078

1. REFTEL HAS INCORRECT INFORMATION ABOUT FORMER MINISTER  
PRESIDENT SEDNEY WHICH NEEDS TO BE CORRECTED. SEDNEY IS NOT  
DECEASED. AFTER LOSING OUT POLITICALLY IN 1973, HE IS SAID  
TO HAVE GONE TO HOLLAND BUT TO HAVE RETURNED AGAIN TO SURINAM  
RECENTLY AND IS NOW A PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SURINAM.  
A MEASURE OF THE OBSCURITY INTO WHICH HE HAS RETIRED IS THE  
FACT THAT NEITHER OF THE OFFICERS WHO WORKED ON REFTEL HAS  
EVER MET SEDNEY, HEARD HIM REFERRED TO OR SEEN HIS NAME IN A  
NEWSPAPER, EXCEPT AS A FIGURE OF THE PAST.

2. SEDNEY WAS ORIGINALLY A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL PARTY OF  
SURINAM (NPS) WHICH IS THE PARTY OF THE PRESENT PRIME  
MINISTER, HENCK ARRON, AND SERVED AS MINISTER OF FINANCE IN THE  
NPS CABINET WHICH TOOK OFFICE IN 1958. HE DID NOT APPEAR IN THE  
NEXT CABINET IN 1963, HOWEVER, AND IN 1967 LEFT THE NPS TO  
JOIN THE NEW PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) WHICH APPARENTLY  
SPLIT OFF FROM THE NPS. IN THE 1969 ELECTIONS, THE HINDUSTANI  
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VHP OF J. LACHMON WON THE LARGEST TOTAL OF VOTES, WITH THE NPS  
SECOND AND THE PNP, THEN IN COMBINATION WITH THE PSV AND  
KTPI, THIRD. AS FORMATEUR OF THE CABINET LACHMON CHOSE SEDNEY  
AS MINISTER PRESIDENT, THUS ESTABLISHING IN EFFECT A HINDU-  
STANI-CREOLE COALITION WITH THE NPS LEFT OUT. IN THE 1973  
ELECTIONS, HOWEVER, THE PNP COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED, AND THE NPS,  
TOGETHER WITH ITS COMBINATION PARTNERS PSV AND KTPI, AS WELL

AS THE PNR OF BRUMA, WON A MAJORITY OVER THE VHP.

3. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE EXACTLY WHAT WOULD BE THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES IF THE INFO IN PARA 1 STATE 23077 WERE TO BE MADE PUBLIC BEFORE THE COMING ELECTIONS. THERE WOULD BE NO POLITICAL EFFECT ON SEDNEY AND THE PNP SINCE THEY HAVE COMPLETELY LEFT THE POLITICAL STAGE. THERE WOULD BE NO DIRECT EFFECT AGAINST ARRON, SINCE SEDNEY HAD LEFT ARRON'S PARTY BEFORE ARRON GAINED ANY PROMINENCE IN IT, AND THE TWO WERE OPPONENTS IN 1973. THERE MIGHT BE SOME ADVERSE EFFECT AGAINST LACHMON, SINCE HE WOULD BE SHOWN TO HAVE PICKED A MINISTER PRESIDENT WHO LATER TOOK A POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION, BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, SEDNEY IS A CREOLE AND NOT A HINDU-STANI AND, UNLESS LACHMON WERE SHOWN TO HAVE HAD KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONTRIBUTION, THE MATTER MIGHT BE CONSIDERED MORE A CREOLE PROBLEM THAN ONE FOR LACHMON, WHO HAD TRIED TO BRIDGE THE ETHNIC GAP IN SETTING UP A GOVERNMENT.

4. ALL OF THE ABOVE REINFORCES THE EMBASSY'S CONCLUSION THAT THE USG OUGHT TO TAKE NO INITIATIVE AT THIS TIME TO RELEASE THE INFO IN PARA 1 OF STATE 23077. IT MAY WELL BE THAT THESE COMPLEXITIES ARE THE REASON WHY THE VARIOUS ACTORS ON THE POLITICAL SCENE HAVE CHOSEN, SO FAR, NOT TO MAKE ANYTHING MORE OF THIS SUBJECT.  
ZURHELLEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**TAGS:** EINV, PINR, NS, REYNOLDS, (SEDNEY, JULES)  
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**Type:** TE  
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